

Friday, September 14, 2012

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Ben Ray Luján of New Mexico's Third District released the following statement today in celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, which begins on September 15.

"Hispanic Heritage Month represents an opportunity to reflect on the enduring contributions of a community that has strengthened the fabric of a nation whose diversity is a source of strength and pride. As one of the fastest growing ethnic groups in the United States, Hispanics have increasingly played a vital role in our country as businessmen and women, members of the armed forces, teachers, and first responders.

"As we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month and this year's theme of 'Many Backgrounds, Many Stories...One American Spirit,' we are reminded that we are united by the common bonds that include the belief in the American Dream and the desire for a brighter tomorrow.

"With the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month, we also recognize National Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI) Week. HSIs play a key role in educating approximately 50 percent of all Hispanics enrolled in colleges and universities. A quality education is essential to a stronger future not only for Hispanics, but for all young Americans. The role that HSIs play is critical to providing Hispanics with the opportunity to learn the skills and knowledge that is necessary to get ahead in an increasingly global economy.

"This month, as we recognize the impact of the Hispanic community and the rich culture, traditions, and values that have influenced our nation, let us continue our efforts to live up to the hopes and aspirations of a community whose influence on our nation runs deep."

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